

I do not support a review and reversal of the FCC's current policy of disallowing the cross-ownership of the media by a single owner/corporation. Besides the wholly predictable result of a single company controlling a town's TV stations, radio stations, cable company and only newspaper, the elimination of this rule will essentially signal the absorption of the newspaper business into the television industry, with a negative impact on the quality of print journalism. Newspaper companies "see savings in news gathering by combining with TV stations as a big plus," an industry analyst told the L.A. Times (9/14/01), giving an indication that the newly merged megacompanies would provide communities with less news, not more. A democracy requires the free exchange of ideas but the homogenization of the news resulting from the view of one owner would radically diminish the availability and transit of those ideas.